

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05942 091212Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-07 ERDA-05 /113 W

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R 090756Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2169

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PK, IN

SUBJ: US NUCLEAR FUEL FOR INDIA: PRESS REACTION

1. THE US DECISION TO PROVIDE ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL FOR INDIA'S TARAPUR POWER REACTOR HAS DRAWN LIMITED, BUT CRITICAL, COMMENT IN THE PAKISTANI PRESS. IN EDITORIALS ON MAY 29 AND JUNE 2, URDU-LANGUAGE PRO-GOVERNMENT IMROZE OPINED THAT THE US HAS NO RIGHT TO OBJECT TO PAKISTAN AND BRAZIL GETTING REPROCESSING FACILITIES IF IT IS WILLING TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA IN VIOLATION OF ITS STATED POLICY REGARDING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. FOR AN ADMINISTRATION THAT CLAIMS TO BASE ITS POLICIES ON MORALITY, SUCH AMBIVALENCE CANNOT BE A MATTER OF PRIDE, THE EDITORIALS CONCLUDE.

2. THE INDEPENDENT AND STRIDENTLY ANTI-INDIAN NAWA-I-WAQT COMMENTED IN A SIMILAR VEIN IN AN EDITORIAL ON MAY 30, ACCUSING THE US OF AGREEING TO SUPPLY ENRICHED

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05942 091212Z

URANIUM FUEL TO INDIA IN SPITE OF MORARJI DESAI'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT INDIA WILL EXPLODE MORE NUCLEAR DEVICES IF NECESSARY. IT CLAIMS THAT THIS DECISION FLOWS FROM FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S POSITION THAT SHIPMENT OF FUEL TO INDIA IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE BILATERAL SUPPLIER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN AN EARLIER EDITORIAL ON MAY 18, NAWA-I-WAQT POINTED OUT THAT

THE US DECISION TO PROVIDE INDIA WITH NUCLEAR FUEL WAS NOT JUST A COINCIDENCE, CITING THE TRADITIONALLY PRO-INDIA VIEWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. PAKISTAN, IT WENT ON, CAN HARDLY BE SATISFIED WITH INDIA'S PEACEFUL NUCLEAR INTENTIONS OR WASHINGTON'S INSISTENCE THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MET. AMERICA UNDER JEWISH INFLUENCE DOES NOT FAVOR MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND IS DESPERATELY TRYING TO PREVENT PAKISTAN FROM GAINING ACCESS TO ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

3. THE PAKISTAN TIMES ON JUNE 1 CARRIED A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETING IN PARIS WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE DURING WHICH THE SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR WAS DISCUSSED. THREE DAYS EARLIER THE TIMES REPORTED AMBASSADOR GOHEEN'S CALL ON INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI, NOTING THAT THE TWO CONSIDERED THE NUCLEAR FUEL QUESTION.

4. SINCE THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL RECOMMEND TO THE NRC THAT THE SHIPMENT BE MADE, THE GOP HAS NOT RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH THE EMBASSY NOR HAS IT MADE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT. THIS UNCHARACTERISTIC RESTRAINT MAY BE A POSITIVE RESULT STEMMING FROM THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED IN PARIS, MERELY A SIGN THAT BHUTTO IS PREOCCUPIED NEGOTIATING WITH THE PNA, OR INDICATION THAT THE PM DOES NOT THINK THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO DRAW NATIONAL ATTENTION TO ANY NUCLEAR ISSUE CONSIDERING THE PUBLIC UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE REPROCESSING PLANT SALE. WHATEVER THE REASON, OFFICIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 05942 091212Z

SILENCE, PARTICULARLY ON THIS SUBJECT, IS GOLDEN.
CONSTABLE

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